

# Overview of 2021 Bill Idea Submissions

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January 19, 2022



# Bill Contest Overview

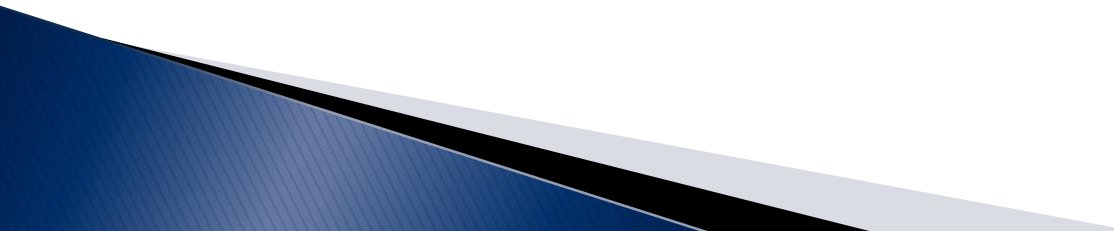
In September 2021, the Council launched its first ever Bill Idea Contest. The deadline for the contest was October 15, 2021.

Staff reviewed every bill idea submission and grouped them by category. A copy of that report was provided in the packet and can be found at [https://scdd.ca.gov/legislative\\_and\\_public\\_policy/](https://scdd.ca.gov/legislative_and_public_policy/).


If the winning bill idea becomes a bill in 2022, the winner will be included in the legislative process.



# Status of Submissions

- ▶ The Council Received **over 100 submissions.**
  - ▶ Staff completed its analysis of the submissions received via the online platform and completed a draft report that begins on page 12 of your packet.
  - ▶ Staff is still inputting submissions that were received via email.
  - ▶ An updated report is in the process of being completed and will be distributed to Council and public members next week.
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# Report Overview

- ▶ 22 of the 37 Human Services Bill Ideas had to do with regional centers.
  - ▶ 3 of the 19 Education Bill Ideas had to do with postsecondary education.
  - ▶ 8 of the 9 Housing Bill Ideas had to do with a lack of available housing for individuals with disabilities.
  - ▶ 10 bill ideas on accessibility policy, including six on expansion of the Brown Act and similar laws to allow for permanent virtual access to meetings
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# Top Bill Ideas – Disability Awareness Training

**PROBLEM:** There is a lack of training focused on ensuring individuals with disabilities can be included in the workplace.

**SOLUTION:** Have a disability awareness/acceptance and perception training module for all employees to learn about the fact that people of all abilities have the right to work and how to make people of all abilities feel included.

\*submitted by self-advocate



# Top Bill Ideas – Statewide Internship Program Expansion

**PROBLEM:** People with developmental disabilities over transition age are underemployed.

**SOLUTION:** Expand the age limit for the statewide internship program.

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\*submitted by self-advocate

# Top Bill Ideas – Retirement Accounts For Individuals With Disabilities

**PROBLEM:** Balances in 401K count against the \$2000 max resource limit to receive Supplemental Support Income for an individual and \$3000 per couple.

**SOLUTION:** The ABLE account and the Cal-ABLE account have been established by law for the disabled to save for retirement and Qualified Disability Expenses. Withdrawals can be made any time for qualified reasons. The balance does not count as a resource for Supplemental Support Income. The account grows tax free. Mandate that all employers (or employers exceeding a certain size - e.g, 100 employees) who offer 401K matching must offer the match to employees with disabilities who have ABLE accounts and deposit the money into the ABLE account as a match of their contributions to the ABLE account..

\*submitted by family-advocate



# Top Bill Ideas – Law Enforcement Training

**PROBLEM:** The systemic abuse of individuals on the autism spectrum by law enforcement.

**SOLUTION:** Helping law enforcement officers become more capable of identifying and approaching persons appropriately on the Autism Spectrum. We are already engaged with law enforcement on the specifics of this idea, and they are very clear about the expectations. We have also introduced this idea to our Champions (the youth and adults living with autism), and they are excited about this important opportunity.

\*submitted by community member





# Top Bill Ideas – First Responder Communication

**PROBLEM:** Communication failures between first responders and individuals with different communications styles.

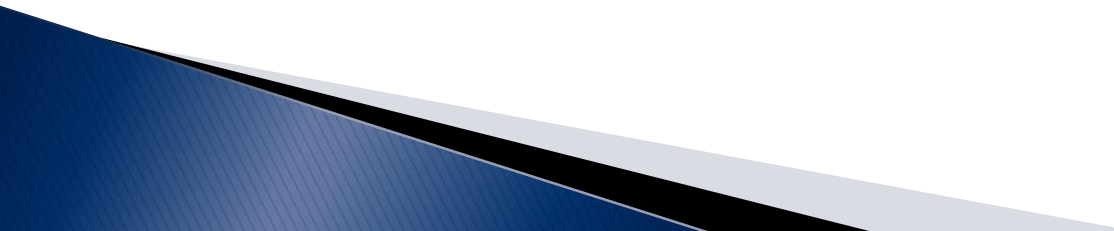
**SOLUTION:** Much like organ donors have a visual identifier on their Driver's License/CA ID, allow residents to self-identify their special needs. California should establish a symbol/icon that identifies a person as requiring unique methods of communication. The icon would be a visual method to alert first responders to check a database to learn what the person is identified as their special circumstance and how best to interact with them.

\*submitted by family member



# Top Bill Ideas – Abuse Settlement Transparency

**PROBLEM:** People with IDD have the highest rates of abuse and a broad lack of understanding and systems, other than "Awareness Months". Training district attorneys and increasing penalties for conviction is being discussed. We need to uncover the abuse with an understanding of how secret settlements are keeping people quiet, to suffer in silence and live in fear as they don't even trust their loved one out of the home. This then burdens the family caregiver, as 80% of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the regional center system live with their families. Caregivers need to know where the safe places are and when abuse happens, how it is responded to.



# Top Bill Ideas – Abuse Settlement Transparency (cont.)

## **SOLUTION:**

"Secret Settlement Transparency for Dependent Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Who Are Victims of Sexual Assault." We need data on the cover-up of abuse via an annual report on secret settlements that is managed by the Attorney General's office. Without data, we cannot discuss solutions.

\*submitted by family member



# Top Bill Ideas – Caregiver Abuse

**PROBLEM:** The problem of abusive caregivers moving from job to job where they can commit more abuse. Unless there is a criminal record, potential employers do not have a way of tracking an applicant's history of abuse.

**SOLUTION:** Establish a California Caregiver Abuse Registry. Registries like this already exist in 27 US states.

\*submitted by community member



# Top Bill Ideas – Sexual Assault Data

**PROBLEM:** There is a lack of quality data on the number of people with intellectual disabilities who have been sexually assaulted.

**SOLUTION:** Require law enforcement agencies to receive at least 8 hours of training annually on how to interview and assist someone with intellectual disabilities//developmental disabilities/Autism.

- Require law enforcement agencies, child protective and adult protective agencies to collect specific data regarding the number of people with intellectual disabilities//developmental disabilities/Autism in the State of California who have been assaulted.
- Hire social science researchers to collect and disseminate this data annually to all law enforcement, regional centers, and child and adult protective agencies working with this population.

\*submitted by family member

# Top Bill Ideas – Charter School Co-Location

**PROBLEM:** Under Proposition 39 charter schools are allowed to co-locate on public school campuses and use classrooms deemed unenrolled. This means that classrooms used for services that include speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy that do not have official rosters are lost to the co-locating school. This has left students with disabilities who require special education and related services without a space dedicated to their needs.

**SOLUTION:** Create legislation that protects classrooms and other spaces used for special education purposes from co-locating schools. The legislation could say that all rooms used for individualized educational program compliance is be protected under the Individuals with disabilities Education Act and the Free Appropriate Public Education statute are protected from Proposition 39.

\*submitted by family member